



Lussier Community Education Center

leading. learning.

February 2, 2010

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin
2nd District, Wisconsin
House of Representatives
2466 Rayburn Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Baldwin:

Please consider this letter of support for the Lussier Community Education Center's Model Communities Program, a creative grassroots effort to provide people with disabilities opportunities to share their gifts and our community the opportunity to benefit from those gifts.

We are grateful for your support throughout the campaign to build this new community center on the west side of Madison. Now our center has completed its first full year of operations and is bustling with activity and partnerships. In 2009 we provided over 7000 hours of programming to over 3000 individuals.

Model Communities launched some very exciting collaborative projects in 2009. One of these we have called the Breakfast Club, a partnership between the Lussier Community Education Center (LCEC), Madison Memorial High School and the Breakfast Optimists Club of Madison. Through this collaboration the Optimists pay the LCEC to host and cater their weekly Tuesday morning breakfast, the LCEC employs three young men with developmental disabilities to cook and serve the breakfast and the high school provides the employment support for these three young men.

We look forward to expanding opportunities for people with disabilities in our community through the Model Communities Program in 2010 and 2011.

- We are working with United Cerebral Palsy on plans to expand the Breakfast Club program to employ more individuals with disabilities, as well as low-income people who may not have disabilities.
- We are creating regular work placements site for individuals through the Wisconsin Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Madison Metropolitan School District Special Education and alternative programs and W-2.
- We are also building grassroots capacity by convening a leadership team of people with disabilities and their loved ones working to make the center and community more inclusive.

Our overall goal is to establish the Lussier Community Education Center as a hub of grassroots relational networks through which community members of all backgrounds and abilities can participate fully in community life, affect the decisions that impact their lives, help others, improve their own quality of lives and ultimately gain access to more and better employment outcomes.

We are grateful for the work that you do on behalf of marginalized populations and hope to be a partner in fulfilling the demonstrated needs of Wisconsin communities.

Sincerely,

Paul Terranova
Executive Director

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